(Orissa) to Howrah, during the day time to meet the public demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) It is proposed to allot an additional quota of 2-IInd class berths at Berhampur station by train No. 4 Madras-Howrah Mail from 1-1-1987.

(b) No, Sir.

Development of Sports Talent in Assam

160. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India have taken any steps for promotion and development of Sports talent in Assam, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the S.A.I. organised coaching camps in any discipline in Assam; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The development programme undertaken by the Sports Authority of India for promotion of sports and games in various States and Union Territories, covering *inter-alia* Assam, provides for the following:

i. Spotting and nurturing of sports talent among children in the age group of 9 to 12 under the scheme of 'National Sports Talent Contest including Adoption of Schools'.

ii. Financial Assistance to States for Sports Coaching Camps for children under 15.

iii. Special Area Games Development Programme.

(b) No, Sir. No such proposal was received by SAI from Assam Government during 1985.

(c) Does not arise.

Board for welfare of retired sportsmen

161. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for setting up of a Board for the Welfare of the retired sportsmen of the country associated with national and international sports events in different disciplines for creating a sense of security in their mind; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Government have already set up the National Welfare Fund for sportspersons with a view to providing suitable assistance *inter-alia* to retired outstanding sportspersons and their families in indigent circumstances. Assistance upto Rs. 25,000/- is available to eligible sportspersons and their families depending upon the extent of their indigent circumstances. Pension can also be given to such sportspersons.

Regional office of Sports Authority of India at Guwahati

162. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India propose to set up a Regional office of the Sports Authority of India for the North Eastern Region at Guwahati; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?